[English]

Allotment of Telephone Booths in West Bengal

869. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications lying pending for STD/ISD telephone booths in the all telecommunications circles of West Bengal, circle-wise;

(b) the names of circles for which advisory committees have been set up for the allotment of such booths;

(c) the number of persons who applied for such booths from North Bengal areas of West Bengal during the last three year; and

(d) the reasons for not sanctioning such booths in districts of North Bengal areas to various applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) 5906 applications are pending for STD/ISD telephone booths in West Bengal Circle (Statement enclosed).

(b) STD PCO Allotment Committees have been set up in respect of each Secondary Switching Area (SSA) in all the telecom circles consisting of 2 official members. The non-official members on each are nominated by the M.Ps. The M.Ps of XIIth Lok Sabha of that constitutency have been addressed to nominate non-official members. Nominations of MPs of Rajya Sabha already exist.

(c) 3721 persons have applied for allotment of STD PCO booths from North Bengal during the last three years.

(d) In North Bengal area, only 1431 applications are pending for allotment of STD PCO booths. These are pending due to various reasons such as non-availability of exchange capacity, inadequate STD junctions etc.

Statement

SSA	Number of applications for STD/ ISD booths pending as on 30.4.98
Asansol	362
Bankura	140
Calcutta	1532
Berhampur	300
Jalpaiguri	465
Kharagpur	214
Krishnagar	1750
Malda	150
Purulia	67
Raigang	134
Siliguri	682
Suri	110
Total	5906

Development of Primary Education

870. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the percentage of allocation of funds made for the development of primary education during the last year as well as current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the Sabhe.

New Forest and Environment Policy

871. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress achieved under New forest and Environment Policy is far from satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of fresh policy initiatives announced under consideration to deal with the problem during 1998-99 and Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal for preparing a New Forest and Environment Policy. However, the Government policy on environment and forests has been enunciated in the National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development (1992), Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution (1992) and the National Forest Policy (1988).

(c) The Government do not propose any new environment and forests policy.

Constitution Review Commission

872. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA
PROF. P.J. KURIEN
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Constitution Review Commission; and

(b) if so, the purpose of constituting such a commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) The Government has so far not taken any decision.